

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /180 W

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R 141504Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9663

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9719

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR PLO XF

SUBJ: FEDAYEEN - ARAB DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BEIRUT 9219

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SUMMARY: INDICATIONS HAVE SURFACED IN LAST FEW DAYS

THAT PLO LEADERSHIP MAY AGREE TO ATTEND TRIPARTITE EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN PLO SUMMIT MEETING REPORTEDLY PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO BE HELD SHORTLY IN CAIRO IN EFFORT COORDINATE ARAB POSITIONS RE NEXT STAGE OF ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT. IF TRUE, PLO "MODERATE" LEADERSHIP MAY BE APPROACHING POINT WHERE IT WILL HAVE TO "STAND UP AND BE COUNTED" ON QUESTION OF ASSOCIATION WITH THAT EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORTS CARRIED HERE AUG 13 AND 14 IN INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR MAINTAIN THAT SADAT--HAVING APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED WITH SUDAI MEDIATION IN REASSURING FEDAYEEN "MODERATES" THAT EGYPT CONTINUES RECOGNIZE PLO AS SOLE REP OF PALESTINIANS--HAS INVITED 'ARAFAT TO ATTEND EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN-PLO MEETING IN CAIRO AUG 20 IN ORDER COORDINATE ARAB POSITIONS PRIOR TO RESUMPTION OF GENEVA TALKS. NAHAR ALSO REPORTED THAT 'ARAFAT DISCUSSED UPCOMING TRIPARTITE MEETING WITH PRES ASSAD AUG 12 IN DAMASCUS, WHERE HE ALSO SAID TO HAVE PRESIDED OVER FIRST OF NEW SERIES OF PLO EX COMM MEETINGS DEVOTED TO REVIEWING RESULTS OF HIS MOSCOW TRIP, ALLEGED ISRAELI MILITARY PREPARATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR JORDAN-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. IN MEANTIME, WE NOTE THAT PFLP, PFLP/GENERAL COMMAND AND ALF "REJECTIONISTS" ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT HERE AUG 13 DENOUNCING PLO/FATAH LEADERSHIP'S POLICIES OF "SUBSERVIENCE TO CAPITULATIONIST ARAB REGIMES" AND ANNOUNCING THEY HAVE SERVED NOTICE TO WITHDRAW FROM PLO IF SUCH POLICIES ARE NOT CHANGED BY AUG 18.

2. COMMENT: WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT SADAT HAS COMPLETELY DISSIPATED FEARS RE EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS GENERATED AMONG PLO/FATAH "MODERATES" BY JULY 17 SADAT-HUSSEIN COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT 'ARAFAT AND CO.--BOLSTERED BY RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO USSR AND "CLARIFICATIONS" LATELY PROFERRED BY EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMI--TO ATTEND TRIPARTITE MEETING IN CAIRO IF ONLY TO AVOID BEING COMPLETELY EXCLUDED FROM ANY FUTURE ROLE IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS. IF, AS WE SUSPECT, AUG 13 "REJECTIONIST" STATEMENT IS MEANT TO BE WARNING AGAINST PLO ATTENDANCE AT CAIRO MEETING, SUCH ATTENDANCE MIGHT FINALLY BRING ABOUT OPEN BREACH BETWEEN PLO "MODERATES" AND DIE-HARDS. MANY "MODERATES" COULD DOUBTLESS RATIONALIZE THIS ON GROUNDS THAT THEIR CONTINUED FAILURE TO "STAND UP AND BE COUNTED" IS COSTING PALESTINIANS MORE IN LONG TERM (I.E., BY DENYING THEM WHATEVER

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UNCERTAIN ADVANTAGES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM NEGOTIATED ME SETTLEMENT) THAN IT BENEFITS THEM IN SHORT TERM (I.E., BY PRESERVING ILLUSION OF FEDAYEEN UNITY). ONLY PROBLEM FOR "MODERATES" IS THAT THEY STILL FEEL THEMSELVES LACKING IN TANGIBLE EVIDENCE (EXCEPT FOR PROMISES OF INCREASED SOV POLITICAL SUPPORT AND DEMONSTRABLY FICKLE ASSURANCES FROM ARAB GOVTS) WITH WHICH TO PERSUADE RANK-AND-FILE THAT PLO ASSOCIATION WITH SETTLEMENT EFFORT IS BETTER THAN BEING EXCLUDED FROM IT.

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